



Groundwork Providence, Inc., Rhode Island

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$250,000 over two years) to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

Providence once was a center for manufacturing. The City contains hundreds of manufacturing mills, most of which now are underused or abandoned. Approximately 150 mills are being considered for economic development or historic preservation.

Profile: The Pilot will train 90 students as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from three Enterprise Community neighborhoods for employment at major redevelopment projects along the industrial waterfront, in gateway communities, and for the preservation and reuse of historical industrial properties.

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

Planning for major redevelopment projects along the industrial waterfront and in gateway communities is underway. Providence is a leader in the preservation and reuse of historical industrial properties, and the State has a new program that offers tax incentives to businesses reusing vacant mill space. There is a high demand for environmental technicians to participate in these redevelopment activities, particularly for technicians with training in the use of in situ remediation technologies that can be used at buildings slated for renovation.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Groundwork Providence, Inc. plans to train 90 students, achieve a 75% placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Students will be recruited from underemployed or unemployed residents of the three Enterprise Community neighborhoods impacted by brownfields. The 252-hour Pilot training program will consist of worker health and safety (HAZWOPER, construction and safety); environmental training and remediation technologies (lead worker, inspector, and supervisor and asbestos worker and supervisor); and innovative remediation technologies (classroom, laboratory, and field experience), including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies.

The training efforts of Groundwork Providence, Inc. will be supported by organizations such as the Community College of Rhode Island, Dorcas Place, Federal Hill House, The Urban League, The New England Consortium, and University of Rhode Island. All public and private partners will participate on an advisory committee. The Providence Department of Planning and Development has committed to placing graduates on its list of first-source hires.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to underemployed or unemployed residents of the three Enterprise Community neighborhoods impacted by brownfields;
- Conducting training for entry-level positions as brownfields technicians, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.